EOP currently serves more than 10,000 students on 49 SUNY campuses, including 20 community colleges.
For more than 50 years, the State University of New York’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) has made it possible for talented students who have limited financial resources and are academically underprepared to attend a SUNY college, earn a degree and achieve their life goals. This highly successful program is supported by the New York State Legislature and SUNY campuses. It provides eligible first-time, full-time freshmen with a pre-freshman summer experience, extensive academic support services, a nurturing environment and modest financial assistance.
**TOP 10 BENEFITS OF EOP**

1. Pre-freshman summer program experience
2. Academic and career advisement
3. Individual and group tutoring
4. Personal counseling
5. Skill development workshops
6. Supplemental instruction
7. Peer mentoring
8. Modest financial support to help assist with non-tuition costs such as textbooks and supplies
9. New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) eligibility for 10 semesters for students enrolled in a 4-year college program
10. A shared sense of community

**EOP PROMOTES ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

EOP serves a racially diverse population of low-income, primarily first-generation college students who are significantly more likely to earn a degree than students with similar backgrounds.
74% of students at 4 year institutions complete a BA in 6 years.

3,000 EOP students earn a 3.0 GPA or higher each year.
Students selected to participate in the Educational Opportunity Program have the potential and motivation to succeed in college. To be considered for admission to EOP, students must:

- Be a New York State resident for 12 months prior to enrollment
- Have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent
- Be ineligible for admission under traditional admission standards - students who fall slightly below the criteria for general admission (academic eligibility varies by campus)
- Qualify as economically disadvantaged according to income guidelines set by the New York State Education Department
- Enroll as a full-time student

What if a SUNY campus doesn’t have EOP or you’re not eligible?

If you’re interested in participating in EOP but the campus you want to apply to doesn’t have an EOP or you’re not eligible, you may still qualify for admission and financial aid through other admission processes.
Transfer Admissions
Applicants who have previously been enrolled in EOP or a similar opportunity program (HEOP - Higher Education Opportunity Program, College Discovery, SEEK - Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) are eligible for transfer admission. Students whose previous college did not have EOP or a similar program may be considered for transfer eligibility and should notify the college’s Office of Admissions or the Educational Opportunity Program.

Application Fee Waiver
Students submitting an application for EOP admissions consideration, may qualify for an application fee waiver for their first seven (7) campus choices. If a student does not meet both the academic and economic guidelines, or the campus to which the student is applying does not operate an Educational Opportunity Program, the student will be billed for the application fee.

HOW TO APPLY?

Freshman Admissions

STEP 1
Before applying, you may want to contact the admissions or EOP office at your college(s) of choice to learn more about the program and its eligibility requirements.

STEP 2
Review eligibility guidelines at: www.suny.edu/attend/academics/eop

STEP 3
Gather financial documentation to determine your eligibility. Campus (s) will require supplemental information to confirm your eligibility.

STEP 4
Complete the regular SUNY Application, Common Application or Campus Application and check “yes” to indicate your interest in applying for the Educational Opportunity Program.

The program has a limited capacity so early submission of documentation is strongly advised. Your application will not be processed until full application processing fees are paid in full or an authorized fee waiver request is received. (See: Application Fee Waiver).
First generation and students from disadvantaged backgrounds can often feel anxious or overwhelmed when they first step foot on a college campus. Through participation in EOP’s highly-structured summer experience students learn how to successfully transition from high school to becoming a successful SUNY college freshman. Students are introduced to academic and support services. They are assigned an EOP counselor and begin to forge a strong peer network that continues throughout their college career. Program content and activities vary by campus, but most programs are mandatory and include daily classes and tutoring that focus on developmental work in mathematics and college writing. Some campuses offer credit-bearing coursework. The summer program is free of charge to participants and covers the cost of housing, tuition, meals, books and activities.
Personal Counseling and Academic Advising

EOP advisors work in close partnership with individual students to help facilitate adjustment to the college setting, provide academic and financial advisement, career planning and guidance. The counseling relationship and efforts of individual counselors are the program elements most often cited by students as the critical factor in their success.

EOP Pride

“Once EOP...Always EOP,” is a common refrain for EOP students who proudly refer to the program as their on-campus family. Students form lasting bonds with their EOP peers, advisers and staff. They often immerse themselves in campus and community service activities. High achieving EOP students may qualify for Induction into Chi Alpha Epsilon, (XAE) a national honor society. Many students take on leadership positions and serve as EOP tutors and peer advisors to help ensure the EOP legacy continues for generations to come.
The Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) provides additional aid and services for EOP students who are in or aging out of foster care or who are orphans or wards of the court. Supplemental aid can be used to pay for expenses not covered by other sources of financial aid such as housing, food, books, transportation and fees.
SUPPORT FOR GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Graduate Opportunity Program (GOP)

The Graduate Opportunity Program provides partial tuition assistance to graduates of EOP or similar New York State access programs (HEOP, SEEK/CD) who are admitted to a graduate degree program at a participating SUNY campus. Financial support is contingent upon the availability of funding.

Economically Disadvantaged First Professional Study (EDPS)

Limited resources are available for graduates of EOP or similar New York State access programs (HEOP, SEEK/CD) who are pursuing first professional study programs. Such programs may include optometry, dentistry, medicine, pharmacy and law.
EOP VOICES

WHAT EOP STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ARE SAYING ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Meet Destiny Saldivar

“I am EOP. EOP is me.” SUNY New Paltz grad credits EOP with giving her the confidence to realize her academic goals. First in her family to graduate from college, Destiny Saldivar, who hails from Harlem, says EOP played a key role in her ability to succeed in college. “With academic support and emotional support masked by a sense of family, I felt guided through my New Paltz journey every step of the way.” After serving as an EOP peer mentor and summer liaison she realized a newfound passion for wanting to guide students of color to college. Destiny now works as a college counselor for a group of students in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

Meet Abdoulrashid “Abdoul” Abdoulkader

Homeless when he began college, Abdoul calls EOP his surrogate family. Abdoulrashid “Abdoul” Abdoulkader, a Computer Security major was born in Niger and moved to Brooklyn when he was five-years-old. Before enrolling at SUNY Plattsburgh he was living in a shelter home for youths. Through EOP, Abdoul found emotional and academic support to help him succeed. “They watch over me really well! There are so many opportunities in the EOP program. They will make you feel important, wanted and belong somewhere. They will not let you down, they will always be there for you, in good times and bad.”
Meet The Honorable Crystal Peoples-Stokes

Buffalo State College EOP Alumna Serves as Majority Leader of the New York State Assembly

A former educator, administrator and community organizer, Crystal Peoples-Stokes has represented the 141st Assembly district in Buffalo since 2003. In 2018 she was named majority leader. She is the first woman and African American to serve in the chamber’s number two leadership post. Assemblymember Peoples-Stokes is a graduate of Buffalo State College. She credits the Educational Opportunity Program with “changing the direction of her whole life.”

**EOP** enrolls more than 2,000 first-time, full-time Freshmen each year and boasts more than 75,000 alumni. It is one of the highest performing college access programs in the country. 88% of students at Doctoral Degree Granting Institutions return for their sophomore year.
Meet Arel Moodie

From Binghamton University EOP student to National Best-Selling Author and Featured Speaker at the Obama White House

Essence Magazine said “Arel Moodie should be the poster boy for rags-to-riches stories...he is America’s top young speaker.” Moodie, who does not shy away from talking about his humble roots growing up in the projects in Brooklyn calls Binghamton University’s EOP the genesis of so much of what is good in his life. “The confidence I built, the friends that I made, the jobs that I was able create for myself, the businesses I was able to create all comes back to the summer program.”

Meet Dr. Ewelina Sieka

Stony Brook EOP Alumna Becomes Pediatric Dentist

“Checking off the “EOP/AIM” box on my college application was the single most lucky thing I have done.” Ewelina Sieka was born in Poland and immigrated to Long Island at age 17. Admitted to Stony Brook University through EOP, she obtained a Bachelor of Biochemistry degree and continued her education at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine where she was awarded a Doctorate of Dental Medicine. “The summer program at Stony Brook gave me the confidence to step foot on campus as a freshman. Beyond the indispensable financial and educational support, the program provided me with one of the most valuable lessons: the importance of networking and seeking mentorship.”
Meet Yaritsa Esteves
Young Mother Graduates from FIT and Embarks on Career in Luxury Brand Licensing

Yaritsa Esteves did not let motherhood stand in the way of achieving her career goals. Yaritsa became pregnant with her daughter in her senior year of high school. She enrolled in EOP at the Fashion Institute of Technology, deferred her admission for a semester, returned to college and never looked back. Yaritsa earned an AAS and a BS in Production at FIT and is working in her field for a company that licenses luxury name brands. “What has EOP been to me? It’s been a hand, a net, a bridge, a shoulder and a voice that kept reminding me that my goals were important enough to strive for.”